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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE GROUP

INTELLIGENCE REPORT ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

105409

COUNTRY Spain

DATE:

INFO. 23 June-28 July 1947

SUBJECT

Organization and Plans of
de la Democracia Catalana
Esquerra Republicana de

DIST. 28 August 1947

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ORIGIN

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SUPPLEMENT

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1. Reportedly, by 23 June 1947 the Consell de la Democracia Catalana had reached an accord with the Catalan section of the Alianza Nacional de Fuerzas Democraticas, and a "Comite Permanent d'Entesa" had been formed. At a meeting held about 28 June, the name was changed to "Comite Permanente de la Democracia Catalana."

2. The signing of the Bases formalizing the new organization took place early in July.

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the following organizations were signatories to the Bases: ANFD, CNDC, Confederacion Nacional del Trabajo y Movimiento Libertario, Partido Socialista Obrero Espanol, Union General de Trabajadores, Partido Obrero de Unificacion Marxista, Accio Catalana, Front Nacional de Catalunya, Partido Republicano de Esquerra (not to be confused with the Esquerra Republicana de Catalunya), Union Democratica, and Moviment Socialista de Catalunya. The final draft of these Bases is similar to the earlier draft (see [redacted] except that the detailed program included in that draft is omitted, and the interior structure provided for is simplified to the point of providing merely for two delegates from the Consell and two from the ANFD, and of specifying that decisions of the body should be unanimous but that one abstention would not serve to invalidate any resolution. There is also a provision that the Comite, as the organization of widest representation of anti-Franco forces, shall elect the provisional President of Catalonia by at least a four-fifths majority of its components.

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3. The Consell's delegates provided for in the Bases were chosen from Accio Catalana and the Moviment Socialista, and the ANFD's delegates were representatives of the CNT and the UGT.

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4. [redacted] there is a secret clause in the basic agreement of the Comite Permanente which binds the participating organizations to demand autonomy for a Catalan government in whatever provisional regime may be established in Spain. The CNT has already demanded recognition of the autonomy claim from its Central Committee in Madrid. The Central Committee told the secretary of the Catalan Regional Committee, during the latter's visit to Madrid on 15 June, that the Central Committee was in agreement with that aspiration. The Central Committee spokesman added that rejection by the central provisional government of these Catalan aspirations would necessitate a military and political occupation of Catalonia, and that the national CNT would refuse any request for co-operation in that occupation which the provisional government might make

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DDA Memo, 4 Apr 77

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5. [redacted] as soon as the Bases were formally signed, his party, through the withdrawal of its Minister, Serra i Moret, would provoke a crisis in the present Generalitat (Catalan Government-in-Exile). According to information of 21 July, the Comité Permanente planned to send a delegation to France in early August to suggest the resignation of the Generalitat. The delegation reportedly was to be composed of representatives of the Front Nacional, Accio Catalana, Union Democratica, the Moviment Socialista, the CNT and the UGT, who would form an exile organization representing the Consell and the Comité Permanente. If the fall of the Generalitat is achieved, this new exile organization will try to form a new one, offering representation to all the Catalonian parties except the Partido Socialista Unificado de Catalunya (Communist). [redacted] the President of the Consell told him that the Communists would not be barred directly, but that their elimination would be achieved by some such means as the presentation of a program of government unacceptable to them.
6. The Comité's policy toward and relations with other Republican organizations are not rigid. Reportedly, its leaders are considerably attracted to Indalecio Prieto, whom they believe to have the strongest potentialities of any present leader. Their belief that the Basques are tending toward Prieto, and the indications the Comité sees in the latter's attitude of an increased interest in regional questions, lead it to hope that an interim agreement may be made with him on the Catalan question.
7. In late June, the President of the Consell claimed that the Esquerra Republicana de Catalunya had failed in its attempts to form a new Catalan organization in opposition to the Consell; that the only group which had followed it out of the Consell was Estat Catala, since the Rabassaires, upon whom they counted, were adopting a neutral position. He said further that it was necessary to bear in mind that Estat Catala was divided, the group inside Spain being completely opposed to the position taken by their colleagues abroad. At first the representatives of Estat Catala justified their withdrawal from the Consell by arguing that they were separatists and were unable to accept contacts with Spanish organizations. When the collaborationist position of their party abroad was pointed out to them, they did not pursue the subject, but at the next session of the Consell they announced their withdrawal without further explanation, and consolidated themselves with the Esquerra, which had previously officially announced its withdrawal in a letter addressed to the President of the Consell.
8. In a conversation with leaders of the Esquerra Republicana de Catalunya, however, source was told on 28 June that they were continuing their negotiations for the formation of a Federacion de Partidos Republicanos Catalanes Nacionalistas, to be composed of parties of a leftist and nationalist tendency, i.e., the Esquerra, Estat Catala, Accio Catalana and the Partido Republicano de Esquerra, the last of which is said by these leaders to be closely identified with the Esquerra Republicana, in spite of being a signatory to the Bases of the Comité Permanente. The Esquerra Republicana leaders admitted that Accio Catalana was still represented in the Comité Permanente, but they claimed that a large number of that organization's members concurred with the Esquerra Republicana.

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